

Salvador Hernandez

From: Salvador Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:56 PM
To: neil.jacobs@noaa.gov
Subject: BuzzFeed News Inquiry / Conversation w/ Mr. Mulvaney

Mr. Jacobs, my name is Sal Hernandez and I'm a reporter with BuzzFeed News. I'm reaching because we're working on a story that involves you and White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, and I was hoping you might be able to discuss the issue so that we might be able to provide the most accurate depiction. According to sources we spoke to, we understand that Mr. Mulvaney threatened to fire political appointees at NOAA and to slash the agency's funding if it did not stop contradicting President Trump and disavow the tweet from the Birmingham National Weather Service office contradicting Mr. Trump. Our understanding is this occurred in a phone call Friday, before NOAA issued a statement from an unnamed spokesperson. I understand the NYT reported Mr. Wilbur Ross made the threat, but our sources state it had been Mr. Mulvaney who issued the directive.

Do you have any statement or comment regarding these allegations?
Does this seem like an accurate depiction of your conversation with Mr. Mulvaney?
Did you speak with Mr. Mulvaney and Mr. Ross prior to the issue of that NOAA statement, and could you say what the context of that conversation was?
Was there any conversation, or reaction, from the White House after the statement was issued and, if so, what was it?
Do you believe it would be right for any administration to exert political pressure and direct NOAA to issue statement regarding its forecasts and models for political reasons?
Do you have any comment or statement regarding the current investigations, within NOAA and involving the IG, regarding the statement issued by NOAA?

Thank you for your time. I can be reached here, of course, or at my number below and Signal.

Best,



Salvador Hernandez | **BuzzFeed** | Breaking News Reporter |
o: 949.419.7695 | @salhernandez
Fingerprint: 3F35 5414 ED1A D49A 4F4B D3BC 5BC9 BAA1 BCE1 2433
6824 Lexington Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90038